



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

10 SEPTEMBER 2020

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Moreno Valley – Hate crime claim added in shooting death of 18-Year-old

(U) A grand jury indictment unsealed Wednesday says racial hatred was a motive for one of the two men charged in the slaying of an 18-year-old Black man at a Moreno Valley party earlier this year — a special circumstance that victim Massai Cole's family has fought to get added to the case. That special circumstance claim, along with another of lying in wait, makes defendant Darren Peter Zesk, 19, eligible for the death penalty if the Riverside County District Attorney's Office decides to seek it, and if he is convicted as charged, the office said. Cole's family had been pressing for the hate-crime allegation, citing a racist rap song that Zesk had posted put on YouTube in June of 2018.

SOURCE: 10 September 2020, [East Bay Times](#)

### (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

#### (U) Arizona – Nogales CBP Officers Intercept Narcotics Concealed in Boxes of Floor Tile

(U) Tucson – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers at the Port of Nogales seized 122-pounds of drugs over the weekend which included fentanyl pills, heroin, and cocaine concealed inside hollowed out floor tiles. The narcotics have an estimated street value of more than \$1.4 million. A 43-year-old Mexican national attempted to make entry into the US through the Port of Nogales – DeConcini crossing, in his truck and was referred for further inspection. While in secondary, CBP officers conducted a thorough inspection and removed a total of 85 drug packages from hollowed out floor tiles. The drugs were determined to be 89-pounds of fentanyl pills, 33-pounds of heroin and a half-pound of cocaine.

SOURCE: 9 September 2020, [CBP](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) Georgia – Army Sergeant Faces Charges of Stealing Explosives from Camp Merrill

(U) Dawson County – A US Army sergeant has been arrested and charged by local authorities for allegedly stealing over a dozen explosive devices from the Camp Merrill Training Facility in Lumpkin County. Sgt. Jesse Gray Phillips, 23, of Dawsonville, was arrested Thursday, 3 September, after investigators with the Dawson County Sheriff's Office Crime Suppression Unit received an anonymous tip leading them to find multiple illegal explosive devices, firearms, and narcotics in Phillips' vehicle and residence. According to a statement from the Dawson County Sheriff, investigators conducted a traffic stop on Phillips' vehicle near his home and located two US Army-issued smoke grenades and a handgun.

SOURCE: 9 September 2020, [Gainesville Times](#)

#### (U) Tennessee – Man Sought on Alleged Anthrax Threats Surrenders

(U) Johnson City – A man sought by US Marshals on multiple federal warrants turned himself in on 8 September. Branden Lee Frady, 39, surrendered to Greeneville police and bonding agents. Frady was indicted in February 2013 by a federal grand jury in Nashville on 10 counts charging him with sending threats through the US Postal Service "and conveying false information indicating the use or attempted use of anthrax." According to the indictment, between 10 – 18 September 2012, while Frady was an

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inmate at Riverbend Maximum Security Institute in Nashville, he prepared and sent six threatening letters to then-Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett, the US Post Office, and an Assistant District Attorney General for the 20th Judicial District of Tennessee in Nashville.  
SOURCE: 9 September 2020, [The Greenville Sun](#)

### **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

#### **(U) Cameroon – Boko Haram Attacks Leave Cameroon Villagers in Need of Aid**

(U) Goldavi – Cameroonian villagers along the Nigerian border need humanitarian aid after deadly Boko Haram attacks that have displaced at least 7,000 people, authorities and rights groups say. Villagers have been fleeing their homes since early August because of attacks, which killed at least 22 people and wounded 29. Several humanitarian groups, including the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), handed out goats and bags of rice, among other goods, to more than a hundred people gathered Monday in the town of Mora. Cameroon authorities say a suicide bomber hit the village of Goldavi last week, killing seven people and wounding 14 others.

SOURCE: 9 September 2020, [Voice of America](#)

#### **(U) Thailand – Hospitals and Companies Hit by Ransomware Attacks**

(U) Bangkok – Hospitals and companies in Thailand were hit by hackers who held their computer systems and data ransom, demanding payment to restore information, police said on Thursday. Saraburi Hospital could not access its data on 5 September, slowing operations relying on manual functions, but the hospital did not receive a demand for payment. Some organizations that received ransom demands have already paid to retrieve data, in sums not exceeding 1 million baht (\$32,000), he said, adding that the total number of organizations affected was still being investigated.

SOURCE: 10 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) Ukraine – Authorities Reportedly Detain ISIS Leader**

(U) Kiev – Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) detained one of the leaders of the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) who is wanted by Interpol. According to the information received by the Ukrainian special service, the perpetrator is from one of the post-Soviet countries and is part of the leadership of the ISIS terrorists. The foreigner took part in hostilities on the territory of Syria and Iraq, was engaged in the selection and training of militants, organizing terrorist attacks. The leader illegally arrived in the Ukraine using forged documents in 2018. In the Kiev region, he created a group, which included immigrants from the countries of Central Asia.

SOURCE: 10 September 2020, [112 Ukraine](#)

### **(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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